

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Withdrawn) A computer system comprising an execution environment for agents, wherein said execution environment includes a monitor mechanism for monitoring a message transmitted from one of said agents.

2. (Withdrawn) A computer system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said monitor mechanism comprises a manager agent.

3. (Withdrawn) A computer system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said manager agent has a function for receiving a message from a source agent and for transferring said message to a destination agent.

4. (Withdrawn) A computer system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said manager agent has a function for transmitting messages from a specific agent to agents other than a destination agent.

5. (Withdrawn) A computer system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said manager agent has a registration function for registering an agent which has transmitted a registration message to said manager agent in response to receiving said registration message, said agent being operative to begin its activity within said execution environment.

6. (Withdrawn) A computer system as set forth in claim 5, wherein said registration message includes an agent type of a source agent of said registration message, and wherein said registration function of said manager agent performs a registration process in accordance with said agent type.

7. (Withdrawn) A computer system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said manager agent has a function for registering a source agent of a monitor registration message and a condition of messages to be transferred to said source agent and transmitted from another agent in response to receiving the monitor registration message from the source agent which begins its activity within said execution environment, said monitor registration message includes said condition.

8. (Withdrawn) A computer system according to claim 7, wherein said registering function includes:

means for determining whether said condition in said monitor registration message is registered in said manager agent;
and

means for storing a source agent so as to correspond to said condition when said condition is registered.

9. (Withdrawn) A computer system according to claim 7, wherein, in response to the reception of a message transmitted from an agent, said transferring function searches for registered conditions by content of said message, and wherein when there exists a condition that matches the content of said message, said

transferring function transmits said message to a registering source agent of said condition.

10. (Withdrawn) A computer system according to claim 1, wherein said execution environment is a virtual mall.

11. (Withdrawn) A computer system according to claim 10, wherein said message includes an agent type of said message, and wherein said agent type is comprised of one of a customer agent and a shop agent.

12. (Withdrawn) A computer system according to claim 2, wherein said computer system further comprising an agent that has means for transmitting a registration message for requesting its registration to said manager agent.

13. (Withdrawn) A computer system according to claim 2, further comprising an agent, said agent including:

a data storage for storing a condition of messages to be transferred to itself by said manager agent and transmitted by another agent; and

means for transmitting said condition as a monitor registration message to said manager agent.

14. (Withdrawn) A computer system according to claim 13, wherein said agent further comprises:

means for receiving a message from another agent;

means for, when said received message is a message addressed to a different agent, preparing an associated message that includes contents associated with said received message; and

means for transmitting said associated message to said different agent.

15. (Withdrawn) A computer system according to claim 14, wherein said means for preparing said associated message includes:

means for checking said contents of said received message and for extracting holding information concerning said contents of said received message; and

means for converting said holding information into said form of a message.

16. (Withdrawn) A method executed by a manager agent for monitoring a message transmitted from an agent in an execution environment for agents, said execution environment included in a computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a message transmitted from a specific agent;

searching for a registered condition by using contents of said message, and if there is a registered condition matched with said contents of said message, transmitting said message to an agent that registered said matched condition; and

transmitting said message to a destination agent of said message.

17. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a monitor registration message from a registering agent, the monitor registration message including a condition of the messages transmitted from another agent and to be transferred to the registering agent, the registering agent beginning its activity on the execution environment; and

in response to receiving the monitor registration message, registering the registering agent and the condition included in the monitor registration message.

18. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein the registering step further includes the steps of:

determining whether the condition in the monitor registration message is registered in the manager agent; and

if the condition is register, storing the registering agent in correspondence with the condition.

19. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a registration message from a source agent that has begun its activity within the execution environment; and

registering the source agent of the registration message.

20. (Currently Amended) An associated message transmission method executed by an agent in a computer system including an execution environment for agents, the execution environment executing a manager agent for monitoring a message transmitted from the agent, the method comprising the steps of:

using the computer system for receiving by said manager agent a message from another agent without said other agent addressing said manager agent;

if the received message is a message addressed to a different agent, using the computer system for preparing by said manager agent an associated message that includes contents associated with the received message; and

using the computer system for transmitting by said manager agent the associated message to the intended different agent.

21. (Original) An associated message transmission method as set forth in claim 20, wherein the preparing step further comprises the steps of:

checking the contents of the received message;

extracting holding information concerning the contents of the received message; and

converting the holding information into the form of a message.

22. (Original) An associated message transmission method as set forth in claim 20, further comprising the step of transmitting a condition of messages transmitted from another agent and to be transferred by the manager agent, as a monitor registration message to the manager agent.

23. (Original) An associated message transmission method as set forth in claim 20, further comprising the step of transmitting a registration message for requesting the registration of itself to the manager agent.

24. (Withdrawn) A storage medium storing a program for monitoring a message from an agent in a computer system including an execution environment for agents, said program enabling said computer system to perform the steps of:

receiving a message from a specific agent;

searching for a registered condition by using contents of said message, and if there is a registered condition matched with said contents of said message, transmitting said message to an agent registering said matched condition; and

transmitting said message to a destination agent of said message.

25. (Withdrawn) A storage medium as set forth in claim 24, wherein said program further comprises the steps of:

receiving a monitor registration message from a registering agent, said monitor registration message including a condition of messages transmitted from another agent and to be transmitted to the registering agent, said registering agent beginning its activity on said execution environment of said agents; and

in response to receiving said monitor registration message, registering said registering agent and said message condition included in said monitor registration message.

26. (Withdrawn) A storage medium as set forth in claim 25, wherein said registering step further includes the steps of:

determining whether said condition in said monitor registration message is registered in said manager agent; and

when said condition is registered, storing said registering agent in correspondence with said condition.

27. (Withdrawn) A storage medium as set forth in claim 24, wherein said program further comprises the steps of:

receiving a registration message from an agent that has begun its activity in said execution environment; and

registering the source agent of said registration message.

28. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing an agent in a computer system including an execution environment for agents, said execution environment executing a manager agent for monitoring a message from said agent, said agent causing said computer system to perform the steps of:

using the computer system for receiving by said manager agent a message from another agent without said other agent addressing said manager agent;

if the received message is a message addressed to a different agent, using the computer system for preparing by said manager agent an associated message that includes contents associated with the received message; and

using the computer system for transmitting by said manager agent said associated message to said intended different agent.

29. (Original) A storage medium as set forth in claim 28, wherein said preparing step further includes the steps of:

checking said contents of said received message;

extracting holding information concerning said contents of said received message; and

converting said holding information into said form of a message.

30. (Original) A storage medium as set forth in claim 28, wherein said agent further causing said computer system to perform a step of transmitting a condition of messages transmitted from another agent and to be transferred by said manager agent, as a monitor registration message to said manager agent.

31. (Original) A storage medium as set forth in claim 28, wherein said agent further causing said computer system to perform a step of transmitting a registration message for requesting the registration of itself to said manager agent.